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The Craighead Legacy: Animals of Our Times

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IMMEDIATELY

THE CRAIGHEAD LEGACY:
ANIMALS OF OUR TIMES

by
Gayle Walton
UM Foundation

walton/jg
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dailies w/pix,
Mt. Arts &
Mt. Magazine

MISSOULA--

Wildlife Wildlands Institute

One of the legacies to the University of Montana will be the work of Dr. John J. Craighead, faculty affiliate of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, headquartered at the University of Montana. His research on birds of prey, the grizzly bear and other wildlife of North America and his pioneering work on radio-tracking and on the use of satellites to aid in mapping vegetation and to track migratory animals have gained him international recognition.

Dr. Craighead's years of research led him to create recently the Wildlife Wildlands Institute. The institute's activities will be many, but its purpose is simple: to preserve wildlife and the wildlands that support it for future generations.

Over the years, Dr. Craighead has seen the gradual destruction and decline of great areas of wilderness on this continent. He believes that wilderness and its wildlife can be saved only if the private sector of our society becomes deeply involved. If we want the space and freedom and solitude that wilderness offers us as an integral part of a continuing American lifestyle, then we must be prepared to understand and defend it. Therefore, further development of research techniques, innovative wildlife studies, public information and the training of researchers to carry on the Craighead tradition will be the work of the Wildlife Wildlands Institute.

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The institute will be conducted under the general auspices of the University of Montana Foundation, with most funding coming from private sources.

Animals of Our Times

Of course, increased knowledge about natural resources is not the only result of John Craighead's endeavors in the field. He and his associates have seized the rich photographic opportunities awaiting the wilderness traveler. Those who have seen his grizzly bear articles published in National Geographic magazine or who have been privileged to view a Craighead film know that the Craighead collection is enviable indeed.

To add a measure of quality to this personal research record, John Craighead recently permitted an internationally known watercolor wildlife artist to use his pictures as subjects for a series of paintings of "Animals of Our Times." Bruce Lattig, whose studio is in San Francisco, and whose work has been shown on three continents, has done a series of six watercolor paintings portraying birds of prey and game birds of the Northwest. The drama of Craighead's pictures, which are collectors' items in their own right, is enhanced and enriched by the artist's touch.

From the Lattig watercolors, a limited number of fine prints have been produced so that both collectors of wildlife art or of fine prints may enjoy this unique collection.

The serious collector will appreciate the quality of these pictures. Bruce Lattig is a mature artist. He has achieved a mastery in his medium that is reflected in all the paintings. In "Peregrine Falcon" of the current series, the falcon perches upon a weathered tree at dusk and peers into the approaching darkness. The artist captures the bird's penetrating eye, her legendary boldness and intelligence. He commands the delicate last light of day to find the bird, which can wait only a moment before she must fly away into the dusk.

Equally important to the collector is the fact that the prints, "Animals of Our Times," are among the finest quality prints available today—of any subject and at any price. The prints sell for \$200 - \$250, but it is simply a fact that they are worth more. Paper for the prints is a superior 100% cotton paper, which is of higher quality than paper normally used for prints in the same price range. The paper is of archival permanence. The series is deliberately small to insure the printer's personal attention to each print. Each has been signed by John Craighead and Bruce Lattig, titled, numbered, dated and stamped as a limited edition. After initialing by both men, the plates were destroyed.

Sponsoring the project to create the prints was Mrs. Meri Jaye, a San Francisco architect, environmentalist and art devotee. The creation of the series of prints, "Animals of Our Times," was her inspiration. If the first phase of the project is successful, she plans to introduce another series of wild animal prints produced by the Craighead-Lattig association.

To complete the picture of quality that the project reflects, Mrs. Jaye has informed the University of Montana Foundation that one-third of all profits from the sale of the prints will be given to the Foundation to benefit the Wildlife Wildlands Institute.

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